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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HILLERY, NATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/872,515

Applicant(s)

OTTER ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan Hillery

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 August 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: RCE filed on 8/10/05.
2. Claims 16 – 30 are pending in the case. Claims 16, 24 and 26 are independent.
3. The rejection of claims 1 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/10/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 16 – 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turpin et al. (US 5745712 A) and further in view of Emmet et al. (US 20020129006 A1) and Rivette et al. ().⁶³⁸⁹⁴³⁴ ^{UH}

7. **Regarding independent claim 16**, Turpin et al. teach that *in a preferred embodiment, value trees select a conclusion based on the first condition that is satisfied*

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(although this preference may be modified to suit the needs a particular embodiment).

For simplicity to the user, however, the conditions are typically positioned in the order

that they should be evaluated. In the preceding example, for instance, the condition

>20 should be the first condition in the value tree (Column 24, lines 9 – 17) as illustrated

*in Figs 36A-B, compare with **the logic view including nodes representing the layout***

items and, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of the layout

items, that thus, the properties of objects may be visually manipulated. Properties are

also conveniently inspected. Properties of a field can be inspected, for instance, by

*clicking on it with the right mouse button (Column 22, lines 31 – 34), compare with **the***

property view displaying properties of the layout items, and that FIG. 15 illustrates

the ability of the system of the invention to highlight the selected path in a tree for the

*user (Column 17, lines 1 – 2), compare with **the layout view displaying the layout***

items in their positions in the form; that as shown in FIG. 37D, the value tree now

shows a branch 631, but no condition or conclusion. A dotted rectangle surrounds the

conclusion node, showing that it is selected (Column 24, lines 59 – 61), compare with

selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property, and layout views; displaying

the layout item as selected in one of the views not selected; that in the Form Tool,

lets the user select multiple objects in order to perform editing operations, assign or

revise properties, or reposition the selected fields as a group of objects (Column 6, lines

38 – 41), compare with **modifying the selected layout item in one of the views; and**

that FIG. 4 represents the major divisions of the "form image data file" which is

generated during form creation.. (Column 12, lines 63 – 64), compare with **creating a**

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form definition document based on the modified selected layout item. Turpin et al. do not explicitly teach **display labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of the form**; however, Emmet et al. teach that *in this regard, pursuant to an example embodiment of the present invention, the application server provides the user at the client personal computer with visual representation of the document with identifiable tags or labels. These visual tags or labels are provided to facilitate user modification of the underlying tree data structure of the document as formatted for a large form factor display. The user then modifies the tree data structure by, for example, deleting entries, moving entries, and changing labels assigned to various nodes of the data structure to form a modified data structure. This modified data structure is then later used by the application server to reformat the associated document for display at a small form factor display of a client* (Block 0018), compare with **display labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of the form.** It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Turpin et al. with that of Emmet et al. because such a combination would provide the users of Turpin et al. with a *system and method for presenting content developed for display on large form factor devices (e.g., PC monitors) on small form factor screens of handheld devices* (Block 0013). Neither Turpin et al. nor Emmet et al. explicitly teach **displaying simultaneously a logic view, a property view, and a layout view.** Rivette et al. teach that *The present invention supports a number of modes for displaying the contents of the notes database 308. These modes are called views. The invention supports a note centric view (also called*

*a note view), an object centric view (also called an object view), a link centric view (also called a link view), and a user-defined view. A user can elect to print the notes database 308 while in any of these views, such that the print out has the same appearance to that which is displayed on the computer display. Users can select any of these views to display the contents of the notes database 308. Users can also alternate between these views. Further, users can simultaneously display multiple views of the notes database 308. This is shown in FIG. 43, for example, where the user has elected to display the note view in a window 4304, the link view in the a window 4306, the object view in a window 4308, and the user-defined view 4310. By utilizing multiple windows, such as windows 4304, 4306, 4308, 4310, the user can simultaneously display different views of the same or different portions of the notes database 308 (Column 17, lines 5 – 23), compare with **displaying simultaneously a logic view, a property view, and a layout view**. It would have been obvious to combine the invention of Turpin et al. and Emmet et al. with that of Rivette et al. because such a combination would allow the users of Turpin wet al. and Rivette et al. the benefit of a *system and method of linking notes to data objects* (Column 3, line 67).*

8. **Regarding dependent claim 17**, neither Turpin et al. nor Emmet et al. explicitly teach **reflecting the modifications to the selected layout item in one of the views in which the modification was not made**. Rivette et al. teach that *In step 1816, the notes engine 306 links the selected portion of the data object to the new sub-note. In step 1818, the notes engine 306 updates the displays of the data object and the active note so as to graphically reflect this linkage. The notes engine 306 performs steps 1816*

*and 1818 in the manner shown in a flowchart 2102 of FIG. 21 (Column 30, lines 14 – 19), compare with **reflecting the modifications to the selected layout item in one of the views in which the modification was not made.** It would have been obvious to combine the invention of Turpin et al. and Emmet et al. with that of Rivette et al.*

because such a combination would allow the users of Turpin et al. and Rivette et al. the benefit of a system and method of linking notes to data objects (Column 3, line 67).

9. **Regarding dependent claim 18**, Turpin et al. teach that *in the Form Tool, lets the user select multiple objects in order to perform editing operations, assign or revise properties, or reposition the selected fields as a group of objects (Column 6, lines 38 – 41), compare with **modifying the position of a layout item in the logic view, thereby changing the processing order.***

10. **Regarding dependent claims 19 and 20**, Turpin et al. teach that *both trees are made of nodes. There are branch nodes (restricted and unrestricted) and conclusion nodes. A restricted branch is simply a branch that is associated with a field; an unrestricted branch is not limited to values in a field. An empty node serves as a placeholder, indicating the absence of a tree or the lack of a conclusion after a branch. Every node has a condition except the root branch (the first branch). In a preferred embodiment, a decision is made by reading trees from top to bottom and left to right. Thus, trees are read in much the same way one would read a flow chart: Is Quantity (branch) greater than 25 (condition)? If the answer is yes, then Shipping Method is Commercial carrier. If the answer is no, then evaluate the next condition (Column 22, lines 44 – 56), compare with **the logic view comprises a tree view, and wherein the***

nodes are tree nodes, and the branch nodes include condition nodes to process layout items according to logical statements.

11. **Regarding dependent claim 21**, Turpin et al. teach that *in accordance with the invention, keyboard entries are checked against "field characteristics" which are assigned to a field during form creation. If a keyboard entry for a field is not consistent with the assigned characteristic, the entered value is rejected and an error message advises the operator of a problem. Such characteristics can be assigned to a field by standard "picture" specifications. Alternatively, requirements for the form of a field input can be established by local form rules which are implemented by decision trees attached to the field. As an option, upon the occurrence of an error in input format, the field in error can be cleared and the prompt returned to that field to continue form completion* (Column 4, lines 30 – 41), compare with **verifying the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of a business application.**

12. **Regarding dependent claim 22**, Turpin et al. teach that *an event tree for a form can initiate actions when a form is opened or closed. For example, a form event tree could have Close as a condition, and @PRINTFORM(FormName) as the conclusion. Every time a user closes that form, it would be printed. A form event tree could have Open as a condition, and @FIELDFIND(FieldName) as a conclusion. In this instance, every time a user opens that form, the specified field would be selected* (Column 29, lines 47 – 54), compare with **generating a form-printing program; and calling the**

form-printing program by a business application to print a final document based on the form definition document.

13. **Regarding dependent claim 23**, Turpin et al. teach that *FIG. 15 illustrates the ability of the system of the invention to highlight the selected path in a tree for the user* (Column 17, lines 1 – 2), compare with **highlighting the selected layout item in at least one additional view**.

14. **Regarding claims 24 and 25**, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 16 and 21 and are rejected along the same rationale.

15. **Regarding claims 26 – 30**, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 16 – 21 and are rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (571) 272-4091. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NH

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
9/2/2005